ing. Metric reports are being prepared by the United States Chamber of Commerce and the National Industrial Conference Board. The metric campaign is on in earnest and there should and will be no let up until success is won for North America.

The annual meeting of the American Metric Association for 1921 will be held in Toronto on December 29. In view of the importance of the movement in America, we hope that a large number of the members of the A. A. A. S. will reserve December 29 for the program of the American Metric Association.

Howard Richards, Jr.,
*Secretary, American Metric Association*

*The Obligatory Adoption of the Metric System by the Empire of Japan*

A telegram from Mr. Shirio Kikkawa, Director of the Bureau of Weights and Measures in Tokio, brings the news of the passage by the Japanese Parliament of the law rendering the employment of the metric system obligatory. The importance of this event, significant in itself, becomes greater in view of the fact that this settles the supremacy of the metric system in the Far East and also practically in the whole world. In Asia, legislative acts have, during the past few years, paved the way for a greater use of metric units and the governments are now making these acts effective. The work is pushed systematically in such a way as to assure gradual expansion, thus avoiding mistakes and inconveniences.

In Japan the metric system became legal on January 1, 1893, and at the same time the value of the old Japanese units, the shaku and the kwan, were fixed respectively at 10/33 of the meter and at 15/4 of the kilogram. The divisions of these Japanese units were also decimal. Subsequently a series of modifications of this law, and the promulgation of regulations, assured the increased use of the metric measures leading up to the time when their use should become obligatory.

In China the law of August 29, 1908, has given definite values to units which until then were variable according to the localities and the trades. The ch'ih and the liang have been fixed respectively as 32 centimeters and 37.301 grams. The metric equivalents are inscribed in the law; and the subdivisions of these Chinese units are also entirely decimal.

The law approved in 1913 by the Parliament of Pekin prepares for the complete and obligatory adoption of the metric system; a program of preparation and partial adoption is annexed to this law and leads, after ten years, to the obligatory use of the metric system.

Finally, in Siam, a law of 1912 prescribes the obligatory use of the metric system with gradual expansion from one province to another depending on the time required to secure a sufficient number of measuring devices and metric standards.

As can be seen from the preceding paragraphs, in all the Far East, the definite adoption of the metric system is decided in principle; delays in securing the general use of the metric system in the Far East can now only postpone it for a few years.

On the other hand, the House of Representatives of the United States has before it a bill dated April 11, 1921, introduced by Congressman Britten, which will render the use of the metric system obligatory for commercial transactions 10 years after its passage. It is well to note that the adversaries of the reform have heretofore considered it a good argument that the Anglo-Saxon measures were received in China, Japan, and Siam, having almost the same standing as the local measures. The promulgation of the new Japanese law reverses the sense of that argument.

C. E. Guillaume

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE PARIS ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The *Annuaire* of the Académie des Sciences for 1921 gives as usual a complete list of the members, as well as of the foreign associate members, the correspondents and the "académiciens libres." The annual also gives, as it always does, the names and dates of the successive presidents from the foundation of the Académie des Sciences, as the First Class of the newly organized Institut, on December 27, 1795, to the present time. At the close is an alphabetical "Index Biographique" of all the members and correspondents from 1795 until 1921. This covers nearly 200 pages (pp. 117–314). It mentions a complete list of all the prizes founded by or for the Académie.

The necrology of the Académie for 1920, includes the following members:

M. Armand Gautier, of the Section of Chemis-

try, died at Cannes, July 27, 1920, in his eighty-third year.

M. Jean Jacques Théophile Schloesing, of the Section of Rural Economy, died at Paris, February 8, 1919, in his ninety-fifth year.

M. Yves Delage, of the Section of Anatomy and Zoology, died at Sceaux (dept. Seine) October 7, 1920, at the age of sixty-six years.

M. Adolphe Carnot, Académicien Libre, died June 21, 1920, in his eighty-first year. It is after him that the great radium source, carnotite, has been named.

Of the Foreign Associate Members, the death is announced, in Berlin, of

Simon Schwendener, of Buchs, canton of St. Gall, Switzerland. He was born February 10, 1829, and at the time of his death, May 27, 1920, he was in his ninety-first year.

The following new members were chosen in 1920:

Augustin Mesnager, Section of Mechanics, elected March 1, 1920. Born in Paris June 11, 1862.

Léon Lindet, Rural Economy, chosen March 15, 1920. Born in Paris April 10, 1857.

Maxime Laubeuf, Section of Industry, elected March 22, 1920. Born at Poissy (dept. Seine-et-Oise) November 23, 1864.

Jules Louis Breton, Académicien Libre, elected November 29, 1920. Born at Courrières (dept. Pas-de-Calais) April 1, 1872.

G. F. K.

## THE IOWA LAKE SIDE LABORATORY

TRUSTEES for the Iowa Lake Side Laboratory at Lake Okoboji are to acquire a majority interest in the holdings of the stock company which now owns the property. A reorganization of the business control is to be effected, and owners of stock will be solicited to surrender their shares to the trustees in order that the work of the laboratory may be carried on in the best manner possible.

A committee from the University of Iowa Association has been authorized to secure funds for the repairing and general upkeep of the laboratory premises, and an endowment fund of $10,000 will be sought for this purpose. Mrs. F. A. Stromsten, of Iowa City, is chairman of the committee, the other members being A. J. Cox and Mrs. Preston C. Coast, of Iowa City; Dr. F. J. Smith, of Milford; and Fred Pownall, of Des Moines.

President Emeritus Thomas H. Macbride, who has been most active in the interests of the laboratory ever since it was established, has resigned his position on the board of trustees. Dr. Macbride has carried practically the entire burden of responsibility for the financial support of the institution, which has attained enviable distinction in recent years through the quality of work done there and the facilities and resource of material which it affords. His place on the board will be taken by Walter M. Davis, of Iowa City, who becomes custodian of property. Mrs. F. A. Stromsten, of Iowa City, was elected to succeed Euclid Sanders, of Iowa City, who has been in Europe for some time. W. O. Finkbine, of Des Moines, remains as chairman of the board, the other two members being C. F. Kuehnle, of Denison, and J. J. McConnell, of Cedar Rapids.

## JENNINGS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

AT the Harvard Commencement of 1896 Herbert Spencer Jennings, now Henry Walters Professor of Zoology in the Johns Hopkins University, received the Ph.D. in zoology. During the present year his students, teachers, colleagues, and friends have joined in a recognition of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his doctorate. A committee consisting of S. O. Mast, chairman, R. W. Hegner, Raymond Pearl, and Ruth Stocking Lynch, secretary, had charge of the arrangements.

The number of contributors was 135, geographically distributed as follows: Baltimore 31, Washington 9, Philadelphia 9, Northeast 25, South 8, Middle West 14, Far West 27, Canada 1, Germany 5, Holland 1, Switzerland 1, Japan 1, Philippines 2, Hawaii 1.

A sufficient sum of money was subscribed to carry through the following projects:

1. A portrait of Professor Jennings, painted by the well-known Philadelphia artist, Mr. Frank B. A. Linton. This portrait was presented to the trustees of the Johns Hopkins University by Professor A. O. Lovejoy at the Commencement exercises this year, and hung